

# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

In 1926, in order to control the load limits specified by law and to protect the people's investment in the highways, the Missouri State Highway Department employed five "weight officers" and equipped them with portable scales, motorcycles with side cars, uniforms, and side arms.

On March 10, 1942, the chief engineer of the Highway Department recommend to the commission the transferring of the "weight officer" duties to the Highway Patrol. Colonel Stanley Ginn advised he would be willing to employ each of the present weight officers as scale house operators at a monthly salary of \$125.

June 1, 1942, The Missouri State Highway Patrol took over the operation of the 12 weight stations formerly operated by the Maintenance Division of the State Highway Department. Superintendent M. Stanley Ginn announced the 12 civilian weigh clerks were employed to assist in the operation of these weight stations. Weight station operations were placed under the direct control of the troop in which they reside.

On January 20, 1953, David E. Harrison is designated lieutenant. He would coordinate and supervise the operation of all weight stations, among other duties. August 1, 1953, Lieutenant D. E. Harrison was assigned to the Division of Safety and Administration to supervise weight station operations and building maintenance.

October 1, 1954, weight inspectors were assigned cap badges numbered from one to sixty-three.

January 1, 1955, Superintendent Hugh H. Waggoner announced that T.E. Whitecotton was returning to the Highway Patrol at the rank of captain. He was placed in charge of the Division of Weights and Commercial Vehicles.

February 1, 1960, Commercial Vehicle Inspectors D.L. Hendrix and N.J. Freeman were transferred from Kirkwood to Jefferson City. They were assigned to work throughout the state with a Dodge truck equipped with four scales, ramps, and a three-way radio.

In 1961, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division consisted of a division director, assistant division director, eight non-commissioned officers, eight patrolman, and seventy-seven civilian inspectors. The division currently operates 18 weigh stations and seven portable units throughout the state. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division operated 20 weigh stations and nine portable units in 1963. In 1965, the division operated 25 weight stations and 12 portable units. Two portable units were added in 1966. This brought the total to 14 statewide.

In 1967, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division operated 26 weigh stations 14 portable units and employs 149 civilian inspectors. The division, in 1968, operated 32 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 163 civilian inspectors. In 1971, these numbers changed to 35 weigh stations and 15 portable units. The division employed 151 civilian inspectors. The weigh stations numbered 37 in 1972. At this time, 15 portable units were used and 156 civilian inspectors were employed.

During 1975, the division operated 38 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 161 civilian inspectors. In 1978, the division operated 40 weigh stations and 15 portable units, and employed 13 uniformed officers and 181 weight inspectors.

On June 5, 1979, Governor Joseph P. Teasdale signed House Bill 454, creating "commercial vehicle inspectors" with limited powers of arrest.

On June 12, 1994, Governor Mel Carnahan signed Senate Bill 475, creating "commercial vehicle officers". Qualified commercial vehicle inspectors, who successfully completed the required training, became commissioned commercial vehicle officers and continued to enforce Missouri's commercial vehicle regulations. This bill allowed the "newly created" commercial vehicle officers to carry a firearm and other defensive equipment.

Commercial vehicle enforcement is the oldest statewide law enforcement division in Missouri, dating back to 1926.

The direction and responsibilities of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division have grown significantly throughout the years. In the beginning, personnel were simply enforcing the size and weight of commercial vehicles. The division has grown to enforce many additional state and federal rules and regulations. A commercial vehicle officer must be able to understand many state laws. These include, but are not limited to: laws pertaining to driver's license, vehicle license, fuel tax, operating authority, motor vehicle inspection for trucks and buses, and many Missouri Department of Transportation rules and regulations. Missouri's central location also requires a commercial vehicle officer to be familiar with the driver's license and vehicle license requirements of all states and our neighboring countries of Mexico and Canada.

The division has assumed the responsibility of enforcing federal safety and hazardous material regulations by participating in the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. The goal of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program is to reduce commercial motor vehicle-involved accidents, fatalities, and injuries through consistent, uniform, and effective CMV safety programs. The primary role of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division is to conduct driver/vehicle inspections. These inspections may range from a driver only inspection to inspecting a shipment of radioactive waste. Commercial vehicle officers also have received drug interdiction training through the Drug Interdiction Assistance Program. This training has resulted in the seizure of many shipments of cocaine and marijuana, some of which have been quite large.

In 2006, commercial vehicle officers played instrumental roles in the apprehension of persons wanted on felony warrants and persons involved in drug trafficking. Enforcement activities resulted in 58 felony arrests, two involving stolen vehicles and one child endangerment charge; the interdiction of 350 pounds of marijuana and 122 kilos of cocaine; and the seizure of \$251,530. A commercial vehicle stopped for a random inspection at the Joplin weigh station netted 40, one-gallon cans containing PCP, the largest seizure of PCP on record in the nation, and 30 kilos of cocaine.

Three Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Truck Checks were held during 2006. These special, concentrated truck checks were held in St. Joseph, Springfield, and Branson, MO. Commercial vehicle officers conducted a total of 941 inspections, placing 47 drivers out-of-service, and 168 vehicles out-of-service for various safety defects. A total of 342 citations were issued during these checks with 2,206 violations detected.

The Sixth Commercial Vehicle Officer Class graduated April 7, 2006. The graduation culminated 12 weeks of training for the five new commercial vehicle officers. These CVOs were certified in the National American Standard Inspection Part A--Driver, Part B--Vehicle, General Hazardous Material, Cargo Tank, and Other Bulk Packaging. Twenty state troopers also became certified to conduct NASI Level III Driver Inspections on drivers of commercial vehicles.

December 1, 2006, the position of commercial vehicle enforcement trooper specialist became effective. Members holding this position will form teams of four. Their primary duty is commercial vehicle enforcement, which will be accomplished using portable scale units and through inspections of vehicles, drivers, and cargo. The CVE trooper will also have criminal investigation and homeland security duties.